

Story #48 (Tapes 15 & 21)
1961-1962

Narrator: Kadir Büküş
Location: Karahamza, Balâ kaza, Ankara Province
Date: February 1962

#48
How to Behave in Heaven -- behevtoy in

There was once a very rich man who died leaving a great amount of money to his son. In that same village a captain died, leaving behind him a widow. The rich man's son fell in love with that widow, but he was unable to attract her. He tried very hard, but she would not take any interest in him. Her name was Ikbâl Hanım.

In that same village there was a köse who heard about the young man's difficulty in courting the widow. He said to the young man, "This can be handled easily. Bring a sheep, and we shall kill it, take it to her house, and ask her if we can cook it there. She and her daughter ^{of widow} will share in the feast that we have, and while we are there, I shall introduce you to her, for I know her."

The young man did as the köse suggested, and the two of them arrived with the sheep and asked to use a tripod. They built a fire and after some difficulty with cooking it, and the house had been filled with smoke, they sat down to eat the meal. The köse said to the young man, "When we start to eat, you will put meat in my ear, and I shall put meat in yours."

When the woman observed the two shoving meat in each other's ears, she asked, "What are you doing?"

"We are eating, aren't we?" said the köse.

"Is that how you eat?" she asked.

"Yes. Isn't that the way to eat?"

"No, that is an impossible way to eat. Let us show you how to eat," said the woman, and so she fed the young man, and her daughter fed the köse.

Köse -- and friend -- pretend ignorance of how to eat -- and are fed by widow and her daughter
Eating -- ignorance of -- pretended by köse and friend -- who are then fed by widow and her daughter
Köse -- and friend -- pretend ignorance of how to sleep -- and are shown how by widow and her daughter (who sleep with them)
Sleeping -- ignorance of -- pretended by köse and friend -- who are then shown how by widow and her daughter (who sleep with them)

Story #48

After the evening meal, they prepared to go to bed. The two men went to bed first, but instead of lying on their mattresses, they rolled their mattresses and then ^{sat} straddling them, as if they were riding horses.

The widow said to them, "What are you doing?"

"Oh, we are sleeping," said the kōse.

"Is that how you sleep?" she asked.

"Yes. Isn't that the way to sleep?"

"No, you fools," said the woman. "Let us show you how to sleep." She unrolled the young man's bed and lay under the blankets with him, and the daughter unrolled the kōse's bed and lay under his blankets with him. They slept with the two men all night that way.

After this, the young man spent all of his time with the widow until he had also spent all of the money which he had inherited from his father on her. He then began to check his father's account books to see if there were people still indebted to him. Wherever possible, he went out and collected all the outstanding debts, and then he spent that money on the widow, too. He discovered that the kōse had once owed his father one kurus and that he had never paid it back. He asked the kōse for this kurus, but the kōse claimed that he was absolutely destitute and could not pay it. Day after day the young man came to the kōse and tried to collect the debt of one kurus, until finally the kōse became tired of his unceasing demands.

The kōse said to his wife one day, "The only way for me to escape payment of this debt is to pretend that I have died. I shall die, and you will have me buried in the usual manner except that you will have the grave diggers leave a hole in the grave from which I can escape later."

Trickster - feigns death - to avoid paying debt

Kōse -

Trickery -- debtor ~~pretends~~ feigns death -- to avoid paying debt

Story #48

The kőse "died," was mourned, washed by the hoca, coffin confined, and buried. As he had directed, his wife told the gravediggers to leave a hole in the grave. Her husband had such a large spirit, she told them, that he would need that hole to go to heaven.

When the sun set, the kőse began digging his way out of the grave. Along the road past the cemetery came several mules loaded with cups and glassware. They made a loud clinking noise, and the kőse was curious about them. He stuck his head out of the grave to look. When the peddlers' mules saw a human head coming out of the ground, they were terrified and ran about wildly, throwing off their loads of cups and glassware and smashing them all to pieces. The peddlers yanked the kőse the rest of the way out of the grave, beat him severely, and then threw him back into the grave, thinking he was dead.

Early the next morning the kőse managed to drag himself home. "Open the door," he called weakly to his wife. When the news spread that the kőse had come back after death, everyone was amazed.

The young man came to see him and asked, "Kőse, how is it in the next world?"

"It is all right," answered the kőse, "and you can have a good rest as long as you don't frighten any mules loaded with cups and glassware."

Even more amazed at this answer, the young man could think of nothing to say except, "Will you pay back my kuruş, now?"

Realizing that there was no way to avoid the payment, the kőse gave him the kuruş.